REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-14 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-14 are rejected. Claim 1 is amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,479,489 issued to O'Brien. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

O'Brien teaches a system by which a customer can speak a name and be automatically connected to the telephone number corresponding to that name. First, O'Brien teaches a training mode to generate a calling list for a specific caller. Each caller is identified by a unique identifier, usually the caller's telephone number (O'Brien, col. 3, lines 24-27). The caller's calling list includes the unique identifier, and a list of entries. Each entry identifies a name and corresponding telephone number that the caller can place a call to. Each entry also includes phoneme strings, populated during the training mode, which enables the system to match a name spoken by the caller to a name corresponding to a specific entry.

Second, O'Brien teaches a use mode by which the caller can place a call to a recipient by speaking the recipient's name. The use mode is illustrated in Figure 3 of O'Brien. First, the caller originates a call (O'Brien, Figure 3, block 302). Then, the local switch requests a phrase phoneme list from the SCP according to the unique identifier for that caller (O'Brien, Figure 3, block 304, col. 2, lines 50-52). At this point, the caller has not initiated a call to a calling party. The caller then speaks a phrase, such as a person's name (O'Brien, Figure 3, block 306). The central office, which includes the local switch, recognizes the spoken phrase against the phoneme list provided by the SCP (O'Brien, Figure 3, block 308). The central office then requests the called telephone number and text string that corresponds to the entry containing the matched spoken phrase (O'Brien, Figure 3, block 310). The central office then announces the text string to the caller.

There is no explicit explanation within O'Brien as to the meaning of "the caller originates the call" related to block 302. However, it is suggested within O'Brien that originating the call refers to accessing the local switch 10. O'Brien does not teach how this access occurs. It is clear, however, that the caller does not originate the call by dialing the number of the intended call recipient. This follows, since the called telephone number (of the call recipient) is only obtained after the caller accesses the local switch, the local switch identifies the caller, the local switch obtains an index of the caller's list of entries from the SCP (O'Brien, col. 2, lines 49-54), the caller speaks the name of the intended call recipient, and the SCP provides the called telephone number that matches the name spoken by the caller (O'Brien, col. 3, lines 40-45). Therefore, O'Brien does not teach initiating a call from the caller where the initiated call is directed to an identifier (the called telephone number) belonging to the call recipient, as claimed within the present invention.

Claim 1 teaches an audible confirmation system for allowing a calling party to audibly hear an audible name of a call recipient. The audible confirmation system includes a database configured for storing a plurality of text names wherein each of the plurality of text names is associated with a unique identifier, a control point coupled to the database and configured to retrieve one of the plurality of text names in response to a call initiated by the calling party directed to the unique identifier, and a text to speech converter coupled to the control point and configured to convert the selected one of the plurality of text names into the audible name. As discussed above, O'Brien does not teach initiating a call from the caller where the initiated call is directed to an identifier belonging to the call recipient. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 2 and 3 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien. Accordingly, Claims 2 and 3 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 4 teaches a method of allowing a calling party to audibly identify a call recipient. The method of Claim 4 includes initiating a call from the calling party directed to an identifier belonging to the call recipient, matching the identifier to a text name corresponding to the recipient within a database, retrieving the text name of the recipient from the database, converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name, and audibly playing the audible

name of the call recipient to the calling party prior to connecting the call. As discussed above,
O'Brien does not teach initiating a call from the caller where the initiated call is directed to an
identifier belonging to the call recipient. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully
submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of
O'Brien and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 5 and 6 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 4. As discussed above,
Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 6 are each also
allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 7-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being
unpatentable over O'Brien in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,625,081 issued to Lotito et al.
(hereinafter "Lotito"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lotito relates to an automated telephone voice service system. Lotito includes a data
store to store and retrieve voice messages at individually addressable message baskets, and a
control system for selectively coupling the data store to a telephone network. The control system
is responsive to different data signals received from the telephone network to associate a
particular telephone line to a particular message basket. Once associated, a voice message can be
received over the telephone line and stored in the message basket, where the stored voice
message can later be forwarded to another message basket. Lotito does not teach the use of a
text-to-speech converter, nor does Lotito teach converting a text name to an audible name.

It is acknowledged within the Office Action that O'Brien does not disclose the limitation
of pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed toward an identifier belonging to
the call recipient. However, it is stated within the Office Action that Lotito discloses the claimed
limitation. The Applicants respectfully disagree with this conclusion.

Within the Office Action, it is suggested that O'Brien is modified to accept a method of
pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed towards an identifier belonging to a
call recipient, as taught by Lotito. However, O'Brien teaches that the "identifier" is a spoken
utterance by the calling party, whereas Lotito "identifies" a voice message to be delivered by an
individually addressable message basket. As O'Brien and Lotito do not perform a similar
method of identification, it is not possible to integrate the two methodologies at that level, as

proposed. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion within O'Brien to indicate that the step of accepting a user utterance for the purpose of identifying a called telephone number can be bypassed, as would be necessary.

Further, there is no hint, teaching or suggestion within O'Brien to integrate a voice message delivery system within the voice telephone dialing architecture. In fact, adding a voice message delivery system within the voice telephone dialing architecture of O'Brien is beyond the scope of O'Brien. O'Brien very clearly and explicitly teaches a system for requiring spoken utterances from the caller. Incorporating an electronic delivery system requires additional technologies and interfaces which are clearly beyond the scope disclosed within O'Brien.

Claim 9 teaches a method of allowing a calling party to audibly identify a call recipient. The method of Claim 9 includes pre-recording a voice message by the calling party directed toward an identifier belonging to the call recipient, matching the identifier to a text name corresponding to the call recipient wherein the identifier and the text name are stored within a database, converting the text name of the call recipient to an audible name, and audibly playing the audible name of the recipient to the calling party. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion within O'Brien to suggest the integration of the voice message delivery system of Lotito with the voice telephone dialing architecture, as suggested within the Office Action. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the independent Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of Tessler and Lotito and as such is an allowable base claim.

Claims 10-14 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien and Lotito. Accordingly, Claims 10-14 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 7 and 8 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 8 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien combined with Lotito in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,456,700 issued to Malik. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.
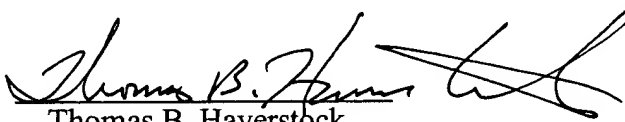
Claim 10 is dependent upon the independent Claim 9. As discussed above, Claim 9 is allowable over the teachings of O'Brien and Lotito. Accordingly, Claim 10 is also allowable as

being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 5-22-03

By: Thomas B. Haverstock
Reg. No. 32,571
Attorneys for Applicants

8